



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, May 20, 2008

***GOVERNOR DIRECTS FUNDS TO AID MEASLES TREATMENT  
\$350,000 from Health Crisis Fund***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today released an additional \$350,000 from the State Health Crisis Fund to bolster the state's response to a measles outbreak in two Arizona counties.

Last month, the Governor allocated \$50,000 to combat the outbreak that has sickened 22 people – 21 in Pima County and one in Pinal County.

"Local and state health officials, health care workers, first responders, and others are putting in a lot of long hours to protect our communities," Governor Napolitano said. "We must make sure they have all the resources necessary to fight this disease."

The newest Executive Order – which allocates \$350,000 – will pay for administering 10,000 vaccines to residents, and for additional lab supplies to ensure prompt measles testing at the Arizona State Health Laboratory. The funds will also pay for testing on nights and weekends.

The Arizona Department of Health Services is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local health departments and physicians to help track suspected measles cases and to ensure those who come in contact with potentially infected individuals are fully vaccinated. To date, 6,000 potentially exposed individuals have required monitoring in Pima County. Before the current outbreak, Arizona's last measles case was in 2005.

The latest measles outbreak shows the importance of ensuring everyone is protected against measles and other preventable diseases. Vaccination provides the best protection. The MMR vaccine may be able to prevent measles if the shot is given within three days of exposure to the disease. Already, more than 3,000 people have sought a free MMR vaccination through walk-in clinics. For information about clinic hours in Pima County, call 520-243-7797 or visit [www.pimahealth.org](http://www.pimahealth.org). In Pinal County, call the Pinal County Citizen Contact Center at 520-509-3555 or toll-free at 888-431-1311, or visit [www.pinalcountyz.gov](http://www.pinalcountyz.gov) for clinic locations.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads easily through the air. It is particularly dangerous for infants, those who have compromised immune systems, and those who have never been vaccinated. Symptoms can include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and a rash.

*If you believe you may have the measles, it is important to call your health provider and local health department first, before you proceed to a health care facility. That way, your provider can*

prepare and help prevent further spread of the infection. For more information, go to [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov) or call the state's public health hotline at 1-800-314-9243.

Information about measles is also available from the Arizona Department of Health Services at [www.azdhs.gov/measles](http://www.azdhs.gov/measles), and from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is attached.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit [www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov).

-30-